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Address: School Croft, Timmerlum Lane, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire AB41 6BG, UK, e-mail: desertmammal@yahoo.com

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## The valid specific name of the Streaked Fantail

by Edward C. Dickinson & Dick Watling

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In Dickinson (2003) the Streaked Fantail is named *Rhipidura spilodera* and the nominate form was described by G. R. Gray (1870). Four other subspecies were listed. As part of work toward a fourth edition of *The Howard & Moore complete checklist of birds of the world*, we observed that a second subspecies also dates from 1870 and that there was a possibility that the New Caledonian form might have been named earlier.

Gray's *Rhipidura spilodera* dates from the May issue (no. xxix) of the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*. We have examined the original description of *Rhipidura verreauxi* by M. E. Marie<sup>1</sup> in the *Actes de la Société Linnéenne de Bordeaux* 27(4): 326–327. This is followed on pp. 327–328 by a 'Catalogue complet des espèces observées' in New Caledonia. At the foot of p. 328 the date '30 avril

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<sup>1</sup> The name Marie appears in small capitals. Wynne (1966) rendered it as Marié. Wynne noted that he was a conchologist, and the Royal Society (1879) list papers in 1867–70 on that subject, some of them from Nouvelle Calédonie, by 'Marie, Ed.' (with no accent).

1870' appears. Further examination of this journal shows that dates appearing like this at the end of an issue matched wrapper dates<sup>2</sup> and must be construed as publication dates or 'dates specified' (Art. 21.2 of the Code: ICZN 1999). Given the reputed regularity with which the *Annals & Magazine of Natural History* appeared (Evenhuis 2003) it cannot be excluded that the name *R. spilodera* Gray appeared first. However, we know of no evidence to suggest, let alone prove, that the *Actes* were not published with equal dispatch. Both names are available and in use and the conditions set out in Art. 23.9.1 are not met. Since they are not met, Art. 23.11 of the Code is not applicable here and we believe that the name *Rhipidura verreauxi* must be accorded priority over Gray's name; consequently, as we now understand the relationships of these forms, this must be used as the specific name.

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*Addresses:* Edward C. Dickinson, Flat 3, Bolsover Court, 19 Bolsover Road, Eastbourne, BN20 7JG, UK.  
Dick Watling, c/o Environment Consultants Fiji, Box 2041, Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji.

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<sup>2</sup>This was found in Vol. 25 where both livraisons 5 and 6 have wrapper dates that agree with dates shown at the end of the last page of text. In Vol. 27, consulted at The Natural History Museum, London, there are no wrappers but livraisons 1–3 were checked and at the end of them are, respectively, the dates 20 avril 1869, 30 septembre 1869 and 30 avril 1870. Livraison 4 terminates with signature 33 which seems to end about p. 442, but no date was found on there or neighbouring pages.